

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 10-19, and 29-30 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 6-9, and 20-28 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6-9, and 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 1, the Examiner has suggested that Armstrong teaches “a transponder … responsive to an external stimulus (pressure) to change the state of the transponder between a first active state in which the transponder provides a first active response and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response.” This suggestion is respectfully traversed.

The sensor switch of Armstrong “**is positioned** to select the first transponder integrated circuit chip … that might send out a code including tire manufacturer plant code, date code, … and a pressure sensor switch position.” The pressure sensor of Armstrong is not used **to irreversibly change the state of the transponder between a first active state** in which the transponder provides a first active response and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response.”

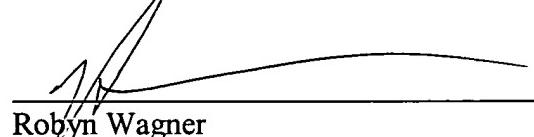
The Examiner has further suggested that West teaches “a device for detecting environmental condition and the device undergoes irreversible reaction when the device is subject to certain environmental condition.” This suggestion is respectfully traversed. West specifically teaches away from “an irreversible change,” for example by noting that devices that undergo an irreversible change in a material property are “not programmable for specific types and severity of stress” (2:31-33), “complicates manufacturing and inventory” (2:33), “must usually be disposed of after use” (2:36-37), are subject to “cost and limited availability” (2:37), “are limited in the amount of information that they can provide about such unwanted disposition because of their simple state-changing mode of operation” (2:40-42), etc., concluding that “it would be desirable for device to record information **more detailed than that provided by a passive indicator device.**” (2:48-60).

Claims 6-9 and 20-21 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above. Claim 22 recites limitations similar to claim 1 and is also believed to be allowable for the same reasons as those stated above for claim 1. Claims 23-28 depend from claim 22 and are also believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robyn Wagner
Registration No. 50,575
V 408-973-2596
F 408-973-2595

VAN PELT AND YI, LLP
10050 N. Foothill Blvd., Suite 200
Cupertino, CA 95014